



LAW DEPARTMENT

DATE: AUGUST 17, 2020

**CITY ATTORNEY'S QUARTERLY REPORT ON ENFORCEMENT
OF LOBBYING REGULATIONS
TO THE COUNCIL AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to section 4-8-12 of the Austin City Code, the City Attorney submits this report to the Audit and Finance Committee related to compliance and enforcement of Chapter 4-8 (Regulation of Lobbyists) of the City Code (referred to as the Lobbying Ordinance).

In regard to quarterly activity reports for the period of January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020 and April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, the City Clerk's Office provided the following statistical information, as of August 13, 2020 (unless otherwise stated).

Registrations as of May 30, 2020			
Individuals	Individuals Registered Individually	54	
	Individuals Registered under a Business Entity	33	
	Total Individuals Registered		87
Business Entities	Business Entities Registered as Lobbyists	14	
Total Registrants	Total Registered Lobbyists (business entity and individuals)		101
Registrations as of July 10, 2020			
Individuals	Individuals Registered Individually	55	
	Individuals Registered under a Business Entity	33	
	Total Individuals Registered		88
Business Entities	Business Entities Registered as Lobbyists	14	
Total Registrants	Total Registered Lobbyists (business entity and individuals)		102
Quarterly Reports			
April to June 2020	Individual lobbyists who failed to submit a quarterly activity report by the July 10, 2020 deadline.		8
April to June 2020	Individual lobbyists who failed to submit a quarterly activity report by July 16, 2020.		0

January to March 2020	Individual lobbyists who failed to submit a quarterly activity report by the May 30, 2020 deadline.		3
January to March 2020	Individual lobbyists who failed to submit a quarterly activity report by June 2, 2020.		0
Prior Quarters	None outstanding		0
Annual Registration Fees			
April to June 2020	Registered lobbyists who failed to timely pay annual registration fees by July 10, 2020 ¹		2
April to June 2020	Registered lobbyists who failed to timely pay annual registration fees by August 14, 2020		1
January to March 2020 Quarter	Registered lobbyists who failed to timely pay annual registration fees by the extended quarterly report filing deadline of May 30, 2020		1
January to March 2020 Quarter	Registered lobbyists who failed to timely pay annual registration fees by August 13, 2020		1
Prior Quarters	Registered lobbyists who failed to pay annual registration fees by January 31, 2020		0

¹On June 8, 2020, the City Attorney's Office learned that a lobbyist had not paid his annual registration fees. On Aug 14, 2020, the City Attorney's Office sent a letter advising the lobbyist he is in violation of City Code Chapter 4-8 by not paying annual registration fees between the anniversary date of registration in January of 2020 and the extended deadline for filing the quarterly report for the first quarter of 2020. The City Attorney's Office will provide a follow-up report to the Audit & Finance Committee if the lobbyist does not comply by the end of this month.

Client Compensation Reporting			
April to June 2020	Individual lobbyists who declined to report the amount of client compensation. ²		1
January to March 2020	Individual lobbyists who declined to report the amount of client compensation.		1
October to December 2019	Individual lobbyists who declined to report the amount of client compensation.		1
Late Fees – None Outstanding			
April to June 2020	Individual lobbyists who received one or more late-fee notices related to the July 10, 2020 filing deadline.		8
April to June 2020	Lobbyists with unpaid late fees as of August 12, 2020		0
January to March 2020	Individual lobbyists who received one or more late-fee notices related to the May 30, 2020 filing deadline.		3
January to March 2020	Lobbyists with unpaid late fees as of July 6, 2020		0
Prior Quarters	Unpaid late fees as of February 4, 2020		0

The following table includes enforcement statistics required to be reported pursuant to City Code section 4-8-12 and includes statistical information from April 1, 2017 through July 31, 2020.

² The City Clerk's Office advised on August 4, 2020, that it had recently discovered that a registered lobbyist had declined to report client compensation for the three most recent quarters (Oct. -Dec. 2019, Jan.-Mar. 2020, and April-June 2020). The City Attorney's Office has sent a letter to the lobbyist to advise that the lobbyist is in violation of City Code Chapter 4-8 by not disclosing client compensation and to instruct the lobbyist to correct the three quarterly reports on file. The City Attorney's Office will provide a follow-up report to the Audit & Finance Committee if the lobbyist does not comply by the end of this month.

<p style="text-align: center;">ENFORCEMENT - REGULATION OF LOBBYISTS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL 2017 – JULY 2020</p>	
Referrals from city clerk, auditor, or other departments	0
Citizen complaints	19
Number of Citizen Complaints addressed by Ethics Review Commission	19 ³
Investigations opened by the City Attorney	0
Cases settled	N/A
Subpoenas for documents	N/A
Witnesses subpoenaed	N/A
Cases tried	N/A
Cases in which a fine was imposed	N/A
Cases in which a fine was not imposed	N/A
Amount of fines assessed and collected	N/A
Law Department staff hours devoted for enforcement	28 hours

³ On November 28, 2017, complaints were filed against 19 lobbyists, in which the complainant alleged failure to disclose client compensation in violation of section 4-8-6(A)(2) of the City Code. Between November 29, 2017 and February 7, 2018, the complainant advised that he was satisfied each of the 19 respondents to the complaints had either filed corrected reports or otherwise resolved the failure to report allegations. At a preliminary hearing on February 7, 2018, the Ethics Review Commission dismissed the 19 complaints.